

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1- 36 (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to Claim ~~[[36]]~~ 71, ~~wherein~~
comprising the further step of:

inserting a receiver is inserted into the recess said fastener-receiving cavity prior
to the panel being ~~located~~ inserted within the panel joining member.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to Claim 37, ~~wherein~~ comprising
the further step of:

introducing an adhesive is introduced between the panel and at least one ~~[[wall]]~~
of the sidewalls of the panel joining member.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to Claim ~~[[36]]~~ 38, comprising
the further step of:

substantially tightening said fastener and forming ~~wherein~~ an adhesive bond
weld between the panel and the sidewall of the panel joining member ~~is introduced~~
when the fastener has been tightened substantially.

40. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim [[36]] 71, wherein the fastener is an expanding rivet fastener to enable it to engage the panel tightly.

41. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim [[36]] 71, wherein the fastener has a screw-thread to engage at least one of said panel and said panel joining member.

42. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 37, wherein the receiver is an adapter, the adapter having a shape complementary to that of the ~~recess~~ fastener-receiving cavity.

43. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim [[36]] 71, wherein the ~~recess~~ fastener-receiving cavity has an open end and narrows away from its open end.

44. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 37, additionally including the step of introducing said ~~wherein the fastener is introduced~~ into the receiver at an angle inclined to the axis perpendicular to the surface of the panel.

45. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim [[36]] 71, wherein the panel includes at least one projection to engage a corresponding recess in a panel joining member thereby forming a push-fit type joint.

46. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to Claim ~~[[36]]~~ 71, wherein opposing ~~[[walls]]~~ sidewalls of the panel joining member are inclined together at an angle of up to 5°.

47. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to Claim 46, wherein the incline angle is from 0.7° to 2°.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The panel joining ~~member~~ assembly according to Claim ~~[[48]]~~ 72, wherein two ~~panel-receiving portions~~ panel-receiving cavities subtend an angle of less than 180° and the fastener aperture is located in the internal wall of the panel joining member.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The panel joining ~~member~~ assembly according to Claim ~~[[48]]~~ 72, wherein the receiver of the fastener assembly is secured within a panel along a selected panel ~~[[edge]]~~ end for inserting into a ~~panel-receiving portion~~ panel-receiving cavity.

51. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joining member assembly according to Claim 49, wherein the receiver of the fastener assembly is secured within a panel along a selected panel ~~[[edge]]~~ end for inserting into a ~~panel-receiving portion~~ panel-receiving cavity.

52. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joining member assembly according to Claim [[48]] 72, wherein the receiver comprises a body adapted for engagement with a panel, the body including an open mouthed recess for receiving a fastener.

53. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joining member assembly according to Claim 52, wherein the receiver narrows away from the open mouth.

54. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joining member assembly according to Claim [[48]] 72, wherein the spaced opposing ~~[[walls]]~~ sidewalls are inclined together at an angle of up to 5°.

55. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joining member assembly according to Claim 54, wherein the incline angle is from 0.7° to 2°.

56. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The panel joining member assembly according to Claim ~~[[48]]~~ 72, wherein the panel joining member includes a chamfered edge.

57. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The panel joining member assembly according to Claim ~~[[48]]~~ 72, wherein the fastener is a screw having a flat ended shank.

58. (Currently Amended) The panel joint according to Claim 70, further comprising:

~~[[An]]~~ an adapter to receive ~~[[a]]~~ said fastener and for insertion into ~~[[a]]~~ said fastener-receiving cavity ~~panel recess~~, the adapter comprising an opening having an open end having a mouth and a closed end, to ~~receiver a~~ receive said fastener, the mouth of the opening having a diameter greater than that of said fastener.

59. (Currently Amended) ~~An adapter~~ The panel joint according to Claim 58, wherein the opening includes a narrowing at its closed end to grip the end of a fastener.

60. (Currently Amended) ~~An adapter~~ The panel joint according to Claim 59, wherein the opening and the narrowing are cylindrical.

61. (Currently Amended) ~~An adapter~~ The panel joint according to Claim 60, wherein the cylinders are co-axial.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joint according to Claim [[62]] 70, ~~wherein~~
the joint includes further comprising:

an adhesive disposed between the panel and at least one [[wall]] sidewall of the
panel joining member to increase [[te]] the strength of the joint.

64. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joint according to Claim [[62]] 70, further
comprising:

~~wherein~~ an adapter having an open end [[is]] located in ~~the recess~~ said fastener-
receiving cavity, the adapter having a shape complementary to that of ~~the recess~~ said
fastener-receiving cavity.

65. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joint according to Claim 63, further
comprising:

~~wherein~~ an adapter [[is]] located in ~~the recess~~ said fastener-receiving cavity, the
adapter having a shape complementary to that of ~~the recess~~ said fastener-receiving
cavity.

66. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joint according to Claim 64, wherein the adapter narrows away from its open end to ensure that the material from which the adapter is formed undergoes plastic flow around the fastening member as the fastening member is fully ~~engage~~ engaged.

67. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joint according to Claim [[62]] 70, wherein ~~the fastening member~~ said fastener includes a screw thread to engage the panel joining member.

68. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joint according to Claim [[62]] 70, wherein the ~~recess~~ fastener-receiving cavity includes an aperture to receive a nut into which ~~the fastening member~~ said fastener can be screwed, the panel joining member and the nut co-operatively engaging to lock the nut against the inner ~~wall~~ sidewall of the panel joining member.

69. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The panel joint according to Claim [[62]] 70, wherein ~~the fastening member~~ said fastener is aligned along an axis which is at an angle inclined to the axis perpendicular to the surface of the panel.

70. (New) A panel joint, comprising:

a panel having an inner surface, an outer surface, at least one end and a fastener-receiving cavity formed within said panel which opens onto said inner surface, generally adjacent to said one end of said panel;

a panel joining member having opposed, spaced-apart inner and outer sidewalls which define therebetween a panel-receiving cavity for receipt therein of said one end of said panel, said inner sidewall of said panel joining member having an aperture formed therethrough which is positioned to align with said fastener-receiving cavity when said one end of said panel is received with said panel-receiving cavity;

at least one stop member formed on said panel joining member adjacent to said panel-receiving cavity against which said one end of said panel abuts when fully inserted into said panel-receiving cavity; and

a fastener removably insertable through said aperture of said inner sidewall of said panel joining member and into said fastener-receiving cavity to enable said fastener to engage said panel and urge the outer surface of said panel against the outer sidewall of said panel joining member.

71. (New) In a method of connecting a panel to a panel joining member employing a panel assembly of the type comprising, a panel having an inner surface, an outer surface, and at least one end, a panel joining member having opposed, spaced-apart inner and outer sidewalls which define therebetween a panel-receiving cavity, said

inner sidewall of said panel joining member having an aperture formed therethrough, at least one stop member formed on said panel joining member adjacent to said panel-receiving cavity, and a fastener, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a fastener-receiving cavity within said panel which opens onto said inner surface, generally adjacent to said one end of said panel;

inserting said one end of said panel into said panel-receiving cavity of said panel joining member;

abutting said one end of said panel against said one stop member and aligning said fastener-receiving cavity of said panel with said aperture of said inner sidewall of said panel joining member; and

inserting said fastener through said aperture of said inner sidewall of said panel joining member and into said fastener-receiving cavity of said panel to enable said fastener to engage said panel and urge the outer surface of said panel against the outer sidewall of said panel joining member.

72. (New) A panel joining assembly, comprising:

a panel joining member having at least one pair of opposed, spaced-apart inner and outer sidewalls which define therebetween a panel-receiving cavity for receipt therein of a panel having a fastener-receiving cavity formed therein, said inner sidewall of said panel joining member having an aperture formed therethrough, and at least one stop member formed on at least one of said sidewalls of said panel joining member,

adjacent to said panel-receiving cavity against which a panel abuts when fully inserted into said panel-receiving cavity; and

at least one fastener assembly comprising a fastener and a receiver, said receiver disposed within said fastener-receiving cavity and said fastener removably insertable through said aperture of said inner sidewall of said panel joining member and into said receiver in said fastener-receiving cavity of a panel to urge said receiver to engage said panel and, in turn, urge said panel against the outer sidewall of said panel joining member.